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WIVENHOE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health
for 1952



BRIGHTLINGSEA
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Rebow Chambers,
Sir Isaacs Walk,
Colchester.

June, 1953

Mr. Chairman, Madam, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the district for the year 1952.

As in previous years the Report is compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The year under review showed quite a reduction in the number of births and deaths. It also was notable for an increase in the number of cases of infectious disease, Measles being the disease most concerned.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation of the Staff and Members of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. ALDERTON

WIVENHOE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Statistics and Social Circumstances of the Area

Area—1,493 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid 1952—2,458.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to rate books—1,001.

Rateable Value—£11,082.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£43.

Social Conditions

The district is situated on the east bank of the River Colne, just south of the Borough of Colchester. The main industries are Agriculture, Ship-building and various manufacturing undertakings. Quite a number of persons find employment in Colchester. The district is also a yachting and fishing centre.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year

			Total	M.	F.	
Live Births :	Legitimate	...	32	20	12	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 13.8.
	Illegitimate	...	2	—	2	
Still Births :	Legitimate	...	—	—	—	Rate per 1,000 total births
	Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	
Deaths ...	...	...	32	15	17	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 13.0.

Comparability Figure 0.74.

Corrected Death Rate, 9.6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

					Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal causes	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 6

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 0

Deaths in the Various Age Groups (local statistics)

0—1 year	...	...	...	0
1—2 years	...	...	...	0
2—5 „	...	...	...	0
5—15 „	...	...	...	0
15—25 „	...	...	...	0
25—35 „	...	...	...	0
35—45 „	...	...	...	0
45—55 „	...	...	...	2
55—65 „	...	...	...	4
65—75 „	...	...	...	7

75—85 „	...	...	...	14
85 and upwards	...	...	...	4
				—
				31
				—

Causes of Death

	M	F
Cancer	2	4
Vascular disease of nervous system	4	3
Heart disease	4	7
Other disease of circulatory system	3	2
Nephritis	0	1
Other disease	1	0
Motor vehicle accident	1	0

The following table shows the approximate state of immunisation against Diphtheria at December 31st, 1952.

Population 0—4 inclusive	Number immunised	Percentage
213	114	53.5
Population 5—14 inclusive		
345	309	89.8

National Assistance Acts 1948-51

No action was necessary under these Acts for the removal of aged persons in need of care and attention.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

The Medical Officer of Health—W. H. Alderton, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. He is employed part time and devotes the rest of his time to two neighbouring Local Authorities and to the Essex County Council.

The Sanitary Inspector—W. Hodgson, M.R.San.I. He is also employed as Surveyor to the Council.

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory attached to the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water for bacteriological analysis are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

For chemical analysis they are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Samples of food and ice cream are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Ambulance Facilities

Non-emergency ambulance calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency, it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

If there is a dialling system in operation—dial ‘999’, ‘0’ or ‘01’ and ask for an ambulance.

Health Services provided by the County Council

Ante natal and post natal clinics.

Maternity and child welfare service.

Nursing in the home.

Health visiting.

Mental welfare.

Home-help service.

Vaccination and immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.

School health service.

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester, at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Infant welfare clinics are held at the Old Boys' School on the first and third Tuesdays at 1.45 p.m.

Assistance from the home-help service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester. Tel. Colchester 4454.

Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board

Tuberculosis : The chest clinic is situated at 3 Shewell Road, Colchester, and is open daily.

V.D.: Sessions are held at the Essex County Hospital at the following times :

Mondays, 5—7 p.m. for males and females.

Fridays, 2.30—3.30 p.m. for females and children.

Fridays, 3.30—4.30 for males.

Certain specialist services are also provided, and these are obtained through the School Health Service.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water : The district enjoys a piped water supply from the Council's deep bore.

Both the quality and the quantity have been satisfactory during the year. The concern expressed in a previous report regarding the water levels has been absent of late.

The supply has been examined at intervals; 12 samples have been taken for bacteriological analysis; 2 samples have been submitted for chemical analysis. A typical analysis is appended.

REPORT (Date of Report, 22.6.52)

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37° C. aerobically, 0 per ml.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 3 days at Room Temp., 1 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C., 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli — per 100 ml.

Remarks : Bacteriological findings excellent.

M.O. i/c P.H. Laboratory.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Faint opalescence with a very slight deposit of ferruginous mineral debris; Turbidity, 3; Colour, Filtered, Nil; Odour, Nil; pH, 7.9; Free Carbon Dioxide, 5; Electric Conductivity. 1850; Total Solids, 1230; Chlorine present as Chloride, 430; Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate. 290; Hardness Total, 120; Carbonate, 120; Non-carbonate. 0; Nitrate Nitrogen, 0.0; Nitrite Nitrogen, approx. 0.1; Ammoniacal Nitrogen†, 0.15; Oxygen absorbed, 0.35; Albuminoid Nitrogen†, 0.000; Residual Chlorine, Absent; Metals: Iron, 0.09; other metals absent.

†To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate but it has its usual high content of mineral and saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality is of a high standard consistent with a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

ROY C. HOATHER

7th January, 1952.

Housing

Although the number of applicants for Council houses is 85, I think the number of urgent cases has been considerably reduced. It is only natural for persons who are still waiting to consider their own case to be most urgent, and in fact to be more so than some whose predicament has already been relieved.

Having regard to the complexity of the individual problems to be considered, I consider the task of the Housing Committee is not an envious one.

The number of Council houses erected during the year was 24, and the number built by private enterprise was 8. In each case the number was an increase of 2 compared with last year. The number of Council houses under construction at the end of the year was 4.

Sewage Disposal

The disposal plant has operated satisfactorily during the year. 8 new connections have been made to the sewers.

There were no extensions of the sewer.

Meat and other Foods

Food shops and catering establishments have been inspected at regular intervals.

The following food was surrendered and condemned:

Pork 96 lbs.; Canned foods: Tomato Concentrate, 85 kilos; Meat and Savoury, 8 tins; Milk, 2 tins; Fruit, 2 tins.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman,

I beg to submit my report of work carried out during the year in my capacity as Sanitary Inspector.

Premises inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	105
Premises inspected under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	8
Inspections and visits re. complaints, work in progress, property under notice and routine work:—				
Under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	213
Under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	10
Butchers Shops and Food Stores	...	...	...	17
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	19
Factories, workplaces	...	...	...	41
Piggeries	...	...	...	7
Drainage systems inspected and tested	...	...	...	38
Interviews with owners, etc.	...	...	...	17
Water samples taken	...	...	...	14
Rodent control inspections	...	...	...	85

As a result of the foregoing, the following actions have resulted:—

Statutory Notices served and complied with	...	...	...	1
Informal letters sent and complied with	...	...	...	10
Dwellings disinfested	...	...	...	3
Rodent treatments carried out	...	...	...	35
Drainage systems altered, repaired or cleared	...	...	...	12

I remain Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. HODGSON,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Infectious Disease

Notifiable disease was more prevalent than in the previous year. This was in the main due to an increase in the number of cases of measles and scarlet fever.

The latter disease was of extreme mildness. Measles on the whole milder, provided some cases of moderate severity.

Details are appended.

Factories Act 1937 and 1948

Routine inspections of factories have been made and defects observed have been remedied. The following table gives details of the work done.

Table of notifiable disease:—

Disease	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65+	Total	Hosp.
Measles	1	19	27	—	—	—	—	47	3
Scarlet Fever	—	3	15	—	1	—	—	19	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	6	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—

Tuberculosis

No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, but one case moved into the district from another area.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

	Number on Register	Inspections
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities†	6	11
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	11
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ‡ (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	12
TOTAL	<u>21</u>	<u>34</u>

† To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937, are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

‡ *i.e.* Electrical Stations (Section 103 [1]), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found	
	Found	Remedied
(a) Insufficient	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3
TOTAL	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists
Wearing apparel, working. etc. ...	8	1	0
TOTAL	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>



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